

January 14, 2008

Mr. Eric Taylor, Project Manager
ADOT&PF
Division of Program Management
P. O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2505

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed long range transportation policy 2030 Let's Get Moving!. While reading the proposed policy, it became apparent that a great deal of thought was given to formulating a long range transportation policy for Alaska.

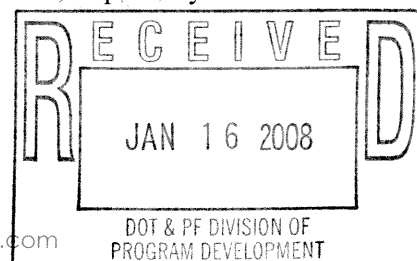
Some of the action items, however, appear to concentrate on the State's urban areas and connecting them at the expense of the smaller, rural communities. Funding routine maintenance activities at current levels, funding preservation and life cycle management at current levels, and funding system development are admirable goals. However, when they come at the expense of local community needs, we would urge you to reconsider the proposed allocation of funding to address community needs.

While the long range policy does make two provisions for community projects, neither provision, as presented, will address the needs of unincorporated communities. The first, the rural transportation bank, would provide loan funds to communities to fund projects. The loan would be repaid using the local tax base to make the loan payments. Unincorporated communities do not have the authority to levy sales or property taxes, in effect making this program unavailable to unincorporated communities.

The second, the reinstitution of the local service roads and trails program, as currently written in State law, is restricted to municipalities. Again, unincorporated communities would not be able to access those funds.

At the public meeting held in Anchorage on January 9th, an example of a good use of transportation funding was the Anchorage airport expansion to accommodate cargo transshipments. The use of State transportation funding has greatly benefited the economy of Anchorage. The Native Village of Chenega is in a unique position to improve its economy but needs assistance with transportation funding. The lives of Chenega residents would benefit from a similar investment in the community.

We urge you to reconsider the State's commitment to rural communities, especially to unincorporated communities in the unorganized borough.



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We also urge you to reconsider the manner in which the Statewide Transportation Improvements Program is being developed this year. Again, there doesn't appear to be any opportunity for community project inclusion.

Sincerely,
CHENEGA CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Totemoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Charles W. Totemoff
President/CEO